

CHARTER

British Colonies vol 2.

Granted the Tenth Year of

KING WILLIAM III.

TO THE

East India Company of England,

In the YEAR 1698.



L O N D O N :

Printed in the YEAR M.DCC.LXVI.

CHARTER

Given the 14th day of

KING WILLIAM III.



His Majesty's Commanders of England

In the year 1688

JOHN W. W.

Printed in the Year 1688

CHARTER

Granted to the

EAST-INDIA Company.

WILLIAM the Third, by the Grace of God,
 of *England, Scotland, France, and Ireland*, De-
 fender of the Faith, &c. To all whom these
 Presents shall come, Greeting. Whereas in and by an Act
 lately made and passed in Parliament, intituled, *An Act for* Recital of
Raising a Sum, not exceeding Two Millions, upon a Fund for Act of Pa-
Payment of Annuities after the Rate of Eight Pounds per ment.
Centum per Annum, and for Settling Trade to the East
Indies, it is amongst other Things enacted, That all the
 Monies arising by the several Duties upon Salt and Rock Salt,
 and upon Stamp Vellum, Parchment, and Paper, in the said
 Act mentioned, shall be brought and paid into the Receipt of
 the Exchequer of us our Heirs and Successors, in Manner and
 Form

Form as in the said Act is prescribed, under certain Penalties therein mentioned ; and that yearly and every Year, reckoning the First Year to begin from the Twenty-ninth Day of *September* 1698, the full Sum of 160,000 *l.* by or out of the Monies to arise by the said several Duties, and to be brought into the Receipt of the Exchequer by weekly or other Payments (in case the same Payments shall extend thereunto) shall be the whole and entire yearly Fund : And in case the said weekly or other Payments shall not extend to 160,000 *l. per Annum*, then the said weekly Monies and Payments (so far as the same will extend) shall be Part of the yearly Fund for and towards the answering and paying the several and respective Annuities or yearly Payments in the said Act expressed.

And it is hereby further Enacted, That it should and might be lawful for us, by Commission under the Great Seal of *England*, to authorize and appoint any Number of Persons to take and receive all such voluntary Subscriptions as should be made on or before the said 29th Day of *September* 1698 by or for any Person or Persons, Natives or Foreigners, Bodies Politick or Corporate (the Governor and Company of the Bank of *England* only excepted) of any Sum of Money whatsoever, not less than 100 *l.* for and towards the raising and paying into the Receipt of our Exchequer the Sum of Two Millions of Pounds Sterling.

And it is therein further Enacted, That, during the Time hereby limited for taking the said Subscriptions, it should and might be lawful to and for all and every Person and Persons, Natives and Foreigners, Bodies Politick and Corporate, by or for themselves or any of them, or in Trust for any other Person or Persons, Bodies Politick or Corporate, or any of them (except as aforesaid) freely to subscribe any Sum of Money, not less than 100 *l.* for or towards the said Sum of Two Millions ; and that all the Monies, so to be subscribed, should

should be answered and paid by the respective Subscribers thereof to such as should be appointed to receive the same to our Use, at such Days or Time, and by such Proportions, and subject to such Allowances and Defalcations, and in such Manner and Form as in the said Act are expressed.

And it is hereby further Enacted, Ordained, and Declared, That every Person and Body Politick, who should subscribe as aforesaid, and be named or contained in such Book or Books as are therein mentioned, his, her, or their Heirs, Executors, Administrators, Successors, and Assigns respectively, should have, receive, and enjoy for ever out of the Fund by the said Act settled and provided, One Annuity or certain yearly Sum for the whole Sum by him, her, or them subscribed, according to the Rate or Proportion of 8 *l. per Centum per Annum*, in the Manner thereby prescribed.

And it is thereby further Enacted, That it should and might be lawful for us, by Letters Patents under the Great Seal of *England*, to incorporate all and every Person and Persons, Natives and Foreigners, Bodies Politick and Corporate, who should subscribe, or for whom Subscription should be made, and upon whose Subscriptions the First Tenth Part should be paid, as in the said Act is expressed; and all and every Person and Persons, Bodies Politick and Corporate, who as Executors, Administrators, Successors, or Assigns, or by any other lawful Title derived or to be derived from, by, or under the said original Subscribers at any Time or Times thereafter, should have or been intitled to any Part, Share, or Interest of or in the said yearly Fund, so long as they respectively should have any such Part, Share, or Interest therein, to be One Body Politick and Corporate, by the Name of, The General Society intitled to the Advantages given by an Act of Parliament for advancing a Sum not exceeding Two Millions for the Service of the Crown of *England*, with such Succession, Capacity, and Powers, as in the said Act

Act is mentioned ; and in such Charter or Letters Patents, such further Rules, Power, and Clauses for carrying on Trade, and pursuing the Ends and Intent of the said Act, were to be inserted, as should be lawfully and reasonably desired in that Behalf.

And it is thereby further Enacted, That in case the said whole Sum of Two Millions, or One Moiety, or any greater Part of the said Sum of Two Millions, should be subscribed as aforesaid on or before the said Twenty-ninth Day of *September* 1698, that then and from thenceforth all and every the Person and Persons, Natives and Foreigners, Bodies Politick and Corporate, by or from whom such Subscription should be made, and all and every Person and Persons, Bodies Politick and Corporate, who as Executors, Administrators, Successors, or Assigns, or by any other lawful Title derived or to be derived from, by, or under the said original Subscribers at any Time or Times thereafter, should have or be intitled to any Part, Share, or Interest of and in the said yearly Fund, and of and in a proportionable Part of the principal Stock of the said General Society, so long as they respectively shall continue to have any Part, Share, or Interest therein ; and all and every Person and Persons, who for any Time should be licensed by such Person or Persons, Bodies Politick or Corporate, to trade in the Stead of them or any of them, should or lawfully might for ever thereafter by themselves severally, or by such Factors, Agents, or Servants, as they severally should think fit to intrust, freely traffick and use the Trade and Merchandize into and from the *East Indies*, and Parts or Limits in the said Act mentioned, in such Manner, and by such Proportions, and subject to such Restrictions as in the said Act are expressed.

And it is further thereby Enacted, That if the said whole Sum of Two Millions, or One Moiety, or any greater Part thereof, should be subscribed on or before the said 29th Day
of

of *September* 1698, and all or any Corporations, or other Person or Persons, having particular Shares or Interest in the said principal Stock of the said General Society, or in proportionable Annuities or yearly Payments issuing out of the said yearly Fund, should be willing and desirous to unite and join together such their several Shares and Interests, and to be incorporated, so as they may be able to manage their Trade (in proportion to their Interests as a Company, and by a joint Stock), that then it should and might be lawful for us, by Letters Patents under the Great Seal of *England*, to incorporate all such Persons and Corporations by such proper Names as we should think fit to be one Company, with Power to manage and carry on their Trade to the *East Indies*, and other the Limits in the said Act mentioned, by a Joint Stock, and to have perpetual Succession and a common Seal, with Power to grant and take, sue and be sued, and to chuse their own Managers, Directors, and Officers from time to time, and such other Powers and Clauses as should be necessary or requisite for the carrying on of such Trade as should be reasonable for us to grant, nevertheless with such Restrictions as in the said Act is mentioned; and the Directors or Managers, and other Members of such Company, were to be subject to such further Rules, Qualifications, and Appointments as we in such Charter should think necessary or reasonable to be inserted.

And it is thereby further Enacted, That it should and might be lawful for us by any such Commission, or by such Charters or Letters Patents as are therein mentioned, to limit, direct, and appoint, how and in what Manner and Proportion, and under what Rules and Directions the Shares of all and every Person and Persons whatsoever in the said yearly Fund, and of and in the Stock of the general Society, or of any Company to be settled or authorized to trade in pursuance of the said Act, and every or any Part or Proportion thereof, should and might be assignable or transferrable, as

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signed or transferred to such Person or Persons only as should freely and voluntarily accept of the same, and not otherwise ; and that all Assignments and Transferences made in such manner should be good and available in the Law, and in the said Act there is contained a Proviso or Condition of Redemption by Parliament in such Form as is therein expressed.

And it is also thereby Enacted, That in case the Duties arising or appropriated by the said Act should at any Time or Times appear to be deficient in the Produce of the same, as that within any one Year, to be reckoned from the 29th Day of *September*, which shall be in the Year of Lord 1699, the weekly Payments upon the same Duties should not amount to so much as should be sufficient to discharge and satisfy the several and respective Benefits, yearly Payments, or Advantages by the said Act appointed or intended to be paid within or for the same Year respectively, in every such Case every such Deficiency should be answered by or out of the next Aids to be raised and granted by Parliament in manner therein mentioned, as by the said Act of Parliament, in which are contained divers other Powers, Provisoes, Authorities, Privileges, and Clauses (Relation being thereunto had) more fully and at large it doth and may appear.

And whereas in pursuance of the said Act we did by our Commission or Letters Patents under the Great Seal of *England*, bearing Date at *Westminster* the 14th Day of *July* now last past, nominate, constitute, authorize, and appoint several Commissioners to take and receive all such voluntary Subscriptions as should be made on or before the 29th Day of *September* then next ensuing, by or for any Person or Persons, Natives or Foreigners, or by or for any Body Politick or Corporate (except as aforesaid) of any Sums of Money whatsoever (not less than One hundred Pounds) for and towards the raising and paying the said Sum of Two Millions, with Power and Directions to them or such or so many of them

as were thereby authorized and appointed to take such Subscriptions, and to do and perform such Matters and Things as are thereby enjoined:

And whereas we did in and by the same Commission or Letters Patents promise and declare, That as soon as the said Sum of Two Millions should be subscribed, in case the Subscriptions thereof should be compleated sooner than the said 29th Day of *September* 1698, or else immediately after the said 29th Day of *September* 1698, although only a Moiety or any greater Part of the said Sum of Two Millions should be subscribed by that Time, we would grant and make forth our Royal Charter or Letters Patents under the Great Seal of *England* for the Incorporation of the General Society, by the Name aforesaid, in such ample Manner as is therein mentioned.

And whereas we did by the said Commission or Letters Patents also promise and declare, that if the said whole Sum of Two Millions, or One Moiety, or any greater Part thereof, should be subscribed on or before the said 29th Day of *September* 1698, and that if all or any Corporations or other Person or Persons, who should have particular Shares or Interest in the principal Stock of the said General Society, or in proportionable Annuities or yearly Payments issuing out of the said yearly Fund, should be willing or desirous to unite or join together such their Shares or Interests, and to be incorporated so as they might be able to manage their Trade as a Company and by a joint Stock, then we would grant and make forth another Charter or other Letters Patents, and thereby incorporate all such Persons and Corporations so desiring the same (the Bank of *England* only excepted) to be one Company, by the Name of the *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, with such Powers, Privileges, and Benefits, as are therein expressed:

And whereas we have in and by the said Commission declared, limited, directed, and appointed that the Part, Share, or Interest of all and every Person and Persons whatsoever of and in the said yearly Fund, and of and in the Stock of the said General Society, or of any Company which should be settled and authorized to trade in pursuance of the said Act, and every or any Part or Proportion thereof, should be assignable and transferrable, and should and might be assigned and transferred by any Person or Persons, Bodies Politick and Corporate intituled thereunto, to any other Person or Persons, Bodies Politick and Corporate, (the Bank of *England* only excepted) who should be willing to accept thereof, his or their Heirs, Executors, Successors, or Assigns, and so over *toties quoties*, as fully and effectually as any other Interest whatsoever is by Law assignable; and that such Assignments should vest the Interest in the Assignee or Assignees, according to the Purport and Effect thereof; and that after such Assignments made, it should not be in the Power of the Assignor or Assignors to revoke or make void any such Assignments, so as such Assignments or Transferences were made in Writing, and entered or registered in such Manner as in the said Commission, and hereafter in these Presents, is mentioned; (that is to say) all Assignments or Transferences which should be made before our granting our Charter for the said General Society were to be entered or registered in the Office of the Auditor of the Receipt of our Exchequer, within Six Days after the making of the said respective Assignments or Transferences; and all Assignments and Transferences which should be made after the granting of the said Charter for the General Society, should be made, entered, and registred in such Form as by the same and such other Charter as should be granted for erecting a Company to trade with a joint Stock as is therein mentioned, or either of them, should be prescribed; in which said Commission are contained several other Powers, Directions, Agreements, Clauses, Matters, and other Things, as in and by

by the same (Relation being thereunto had) may more fully appear.

And whereas it appears by Duplicates transmitted into the Office of the Auditor of the Receipt of our Exchequer, under the Hands and Seals of Five or more of our said Commissioners, being a competent and sufficient Number for that Purpose, and made in pursuance of our Directions in the said Commission contained, That several Sums, amounting in the Whole to the said Sum of Two Millions of Pounds Sterling, have been subscribed, and the first Tenth Part thereof hath been paid or answered to our Use, pursuant to the said Act, on or before the 16th Day of *July* last past, by us and by

That Duplicates of Subscriptions for Two Millions have been transmitted to the Exchequer.

and by several other Persons in the said Book of Subscriptions, and in the Duplicates thereof particularly named.

And whereas by our Charter or Royal Letters Patents under our great Seal of *England*, bearing Date the 3d Day of this Instant *September*, We have made, created, settled, and established the said Corporation or Body Politick, called the GENERAL SOCIETY, intituled to the Advantages given by an Act of Parliament for advancing a Sum not exceeding Two Millions for the Service of the Crown of *England*, with such Powers, Privileges, and Benefits, as in the same Charter are expressed, as by the same, Relation being thereunto had, may more fully appear.

Recital of the Incorporation of the General Society,

And whereas the said Subscribers hereby before particularly named and expressed are willing and desirous to unite or join together their several Shares or Interests in the principal Stock of the said General Society, or in their proportionable

and the Desire of being united in a joint Stock.

tionable Annuities or yearly Payments issuing out of the said yearly Fund, and to be incorporated, so as they may be able to manage their Trade in proportion to their Interests as a Company, and by a joint Stock, and have signified such their Desire or Willingness to us in Writing under their respective Hands;

Now know ye, That in pursuance of the Powers and Clauses for this Purpose contained in the said Act of Parliament, and of our gracious Promise and Declaration made in and by our said Commission or Letters Patent, whereby the Subscriptions and Contributions on the said Act have been promoted and encouraged: And by virtue of our Prerogative Royal, and likewise of our especial Grace, certain Knowledge, and meer Motion, We have given, granted, made, ordained, constituted, declared, appointed, and established, and by these Presents for us, our Heirs and Successors, Do give, grant, make, ordain, constitute, declare, appoint, and establish, That the said Subscribers herein last before particularly named, and every of them, and all and every Person and Persons, Bodies Politick and Corporate, who as Executors, Administrators, Successors, or Assigns, or by any other lawful Title derived or to be derived from, by, or under the same Subscribers, shall have and be intitled to any Part, Share, or Interest of or in the said yearly Fund by the said Act settled as aforesaid, or of or in the proportionable Annuities or yearly Payment issuing out of the said yearly Fund, so long as they respectively shall have any such Part, Share, or Interest therein, to be one Body Politick and Corporate, by the Name of the *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, and then by the Name of the *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, one Body Politick and Corporate, in Deed and in Name, really and fully for ever, for us, our Heirs and Successors, We do make, declare, and establish by these Presents, and by the same Name they and their Successors shall have perpetual Succession,

To have perpetual Succession and a common Seal,

fion, and shall and may have and use a common Seal for the
 Use of Business and Affairs of the said Company and their
 Successors, *with* Power to break, alter, and make new their
 Seal from time to time, as to them shall seem expedient;
 and by the same Name they and their Successors from time
 to time, and at all times for ever hereafter, shall be able and
 shall be a Body Politick and Corporate, capable in Law to <sup>and may pur-
chase.</sup> have, take, purchase, receive, hold, keep, possess, en-
 joy and retain, to and to the Use of them and their Succes-
 sors, any Manors, Messuages, Lands, Rents, Tenements,
 Liberties, Privileges, Franchises, Hereditaments, and Pos-
 sessions whatsoever, and of what Kind, Nature, or Quality
 soever; and moreover to purchase and acquire all Goods
 and Chattels whatsoever, wherein they are not restrained by
 the said Act; and also to sell, grant, demise, alien or dispose
 of the same Manors, Messuages, Lands, Rents, Tenements,
 Privileges, Franchises, Hereditaments, Possessions, Goods,
 and Chattels, or any of them, and by the same Name they
 and their Successors shall and may sue and implead, and be <sup>Power to sue
and be sued.</sup> sued and impleaded, answer and defend, and be answered
 and defended in Courts of Record, or any other Place
 whatsoever, and before whatsoever Judges, Justices, Offi-
 cers, and Ministers, of us our Heirs and Successors, and in
 all and singular Pleas, Actions, Suits, Causes, and Demands
 whatsoever, of what Kind, Nature, or Sort soever, and in
 as large, ample, and beneficial Manner and Form, as any
 other Body Politick and Corporate, or any other Liege
 People of *England*, or other our Dominions, being person-
 able and capable in Law, may or can have, take, purchase,
 receive, hold, keep, possess, enjoy, sell, grant, demise,
 alien, dispose, sue, implead, defend, or answer, or be sued,
 impleaded, defended, or answered, in any Manner of wise;
 and shall and may do and execute all and singular other
 Matters or Things by the Name aforesaid, that to them
 shall or may appertain, to do by virtue of the said Act or
 otherwise, subject nevertheless to the Proviso and Condition
 of

Subject of
Redemption
of all Restriction
in the
Act and this
Charter.

of Redemption in the said Act mentioned, and to all and every other Restrictions, Limitations, Clauses, Provisoes, Conditions, in the said Act contained, and to such *other* Restrictions, Covenants, Agreements, Matters, and Things, as are hereafter in these Presents expressed.

Sum Total of
the Principal
Money sub-
scribed to be
esteemed the
capital Stock.

All Persons
interested in
such Stock to
be Members.

And we do hereby for us, our Heirs and Successors, declare, direct, limit, and appoint, that all the several Annuities or yearly Payments of the several Persons or Corporations by these Presents united or incorporated, or mentioned to be incorporated into one Company as aforesaid, which are or shall be due and payable out of the Fund by the said Act settled and provided after the Rate of *8 l. per Cent. per Annum*, and all the Interest or Shares which the said several Persons and Corporations hereby incorporated into one Company, in respect of such Annuities, or of the Monies subscribed for the same, have or ought to have of or in the said principal Stock or Fund of the General Society before-mentioned, shall be, and be deemed, accepted, and taken to be joined, united, and knit together; and that the Sum Total of all the principal Money subscribed by the said several Persons hereby incorporated, in Respect whereof the said Annuities are payable, shall be and be called, accepted, esteemed, respected, and taken, the common Capital and principal Stock of the said Company hereby constituted; and all and every Person and Persons, Corporation and Corporations, his, her, or their Executors, Administrators, Successors and Assigns, according and in Proportion to his, her, or their Interest, Right, and Property in the said Annuities or yearly Payments hereby united or joined, or intended to be united or joined as aforesaid, shall have and be deemed to have an Interest or Share in the Stock of the said Company hereby established; and that all Persons and Corporations that are or shall be intitled to any Part, Share, or Interest in such Stock of the Company, either as original Subscribers, or by Assignments, or as Executors, Administrators

tors or otherwise, shall be and be esteemed Members of the said Company, and shall be admitted into the same without any Fee or Charge whatsoever.

And our Royal Will and Pleasure is, and we do hereby further direct, appoint, and ordain, and for us, our Heirs and Successors, do by these Presents grant to the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, and their Successors, that in Case any Person or Persons who now is or are, or at any time hereafter shall be Member or Members of the said General Society, and not of the Company hereby created and established, shall be willing, and shall desire to write and join his and their Share and Proportion of the capital Stock or Fund of the said General Society to and with the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, and to trade by a joint Stock with the said Company, and as a Member or Members thereof, that then the said Company or the major Part of them from time to time, at a General Court of the said Company, shall and may, if they shall think fit and expedient, and not otherwise, admit into the said Company such Member or Members of the said General Society as shall desire to be admitted of the said Company, and from and after such Admittance into the said Company, the Person and Persons so admitted shall, to all Intents and Purposes, be and become a Member and Members of the said Company, and be intitled to all Benefits and Advantages of the said Company rateably and proportionably, according to his or their Part and Share in the capital Stock and Fund of the said General Society, so to be united and joined with the said Company; and from and after Admittance the Share and Proportion of and in the capital Stock or Fund of the said General Society belonging to such Member or Members so to be admitted of the said Company shall, by such his Admittance, be transferred to the said Company, and be and become Part of the capital Stock or Fund of the said Company, and shall from thenceforth be and become subject to

Any Member of the General Society may on request be admitted by a general Court into the joint Stock.

such Rules, Orders, Limitations, Restrictions, and Directions, as the Shares and Proportions of the several Persons hereby united and incorporated are by virtue of these Presents, or by the said Act of Parliament, made subject to in all Things, according to the true Intent and Meaning of these Presents, and of the said Act of Parliament.

An Entry thereof to be made in Six Days after their Admittance in the Company's Books and Exchequer.

Provided always, and we do hereby direct and appoint, That within Six Days after such Admittance, an Entry thereof shall be made in the Books of the said Company, and likewise in the Office of the said Auditor of the Receipt of our Exchequer; and from and after such Entry thereof made with the said Auditor of our Exchequer, the Part and Share of such Member or Members of and in the capital Stock of the said General Society, and of and in a proportionable Part of the said Annuities, shall from thenceforth be paid to the said Company, or such Treasurer or Receiver as shall be appointed by the said Company, in such Manner and Form as the Part and Shares of the Members of the said Company are hereby appointed to be paid.

The Commissioners of the Treasury, or Lord Treasurer, &c. to pay the Money arising by the Fund to such Person as shall be authorized under the Company's Seal without further Warrant.

And we do hereby, for us, our Heirs and Successors, authorize and enjoin and require the Commissioners of our Treasury and Under Treasurer of our Exchequer now being, the High Treasurer, Commissioners of the Treasury, and Under Treasurer of us, our Heirs and Successors for the Time being, without further or other Warrant, to be sued for, had, or obtained from us our Heirs or Successors, to issue and pay, or cause to be issued and paid, the proportionable Part or Parts of the said yearly Fund issuing out of the Exchequer, and belonging to the Members of the Company hereby established, from time to time to the said Company, called the *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, or to such Treasurer or Treasurers as shall be appointed under the Common Seal to receive the same, in Trust for the several and respective Members of the same Company, according to their

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respective Proportions or Shares in the said joint or united Stock of the Company, and to direct their Warrants and Orders for the issuing and Payment thereof accordingly; and that the Payments thereof be made weekly, or as fast as the said Duties shall produce Money into the Exchequer for the same, so as by such weekly or other Payments the Whole of the Annuities due to the said Company at the End of any one Quarter be not exceeded, as in and by the said Act is prescribed; any Matter or Thing to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Payments to be made weekly.

And we do hereby order, direct, and appoint, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Company or Body Politick, called the *English* Company trading to the *East Indies* and their Successors, from time to time, and at any Time or Times hereafter, for the better carrying on of the Trade and Affairs of the said Company, to make or cause to be made any Addition to their said capital Stock, any Sum or Sums of Money, to be contributed or paid by the Members of the said Company, or any of them, so as all the Additions so to be made to the aforesaid Joint Stock of the said Company do not at any Time exceed the Sum total for which the said Company may yearly trade to the *East Indies*, and other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, by virtue of the said Act of Parliament and of these Presents.

May make any Addition to the capital Stock, so as not to exceed the Total of what the Company may trade for.

And our Will and Pleasure is, and we do hereby for us, our Heirs and Successors, grant, direct, and appoint, That the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, and their Successors, shall and may for ever hereafter, by themselves, or by such Factors, Agents, or Servants as they severally shall think fit to intrust, freely traffick and use the Trade of Merchandize, in such Places and by such Ways and Passages as are already frequented, found out, or discovered, or which shall be hereafter found out or discovered, as they severally shall esteem and take to be fittest and best for them

May for ever hereafter freely trade.

To and from
the East In-
dies,

so as they do
not in any
one Year, to
be reckoned
from Mi-
chaelmas,

trade for
more than
the Amount
of the Capital.

Subject to the
Proviso of
the Redemp-
tion, &c.

No Member
to trade but
in a joint
Stock.

unto and from the *East Indies* into the Countries and Parts of *Asia* and *Africa*, and unto and from the Islands, Ports, Havens, Cities, Creeks, Towns, and Places of *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America*, or any of them, beyond the Cape of *Bona Esperanza* to the Streights of *Magellan*, where any Trade or Traffick of Merchandize is or may be used or had, and to and from every of them, so as the said Company do not in One Year (every Year to be reckoned from the 29th Day of *September* 1698) successively ship, lade, put on board, send or cause to be sent, to or for the *East Indies*, or other Parts within the Limits aforesaid, from *England*, or any other Country or Place whatsoever, any Quantity of Goods, Wares, and Merchandizes, Coins, Bullion, or Commodities whatsoever, of greater Value than in the said Act of Parliament, and hereafter in these Presents are expressed (that is to say) the said Company for every 8*l.* *per Annum* payable to them and their Successors out of the said yearly Fund in respect thereof 100*l.* is to be reckoned in their capital Stock as aforesaid, shall or may, by themselves or others as aforesaid, ship, lade, put on board, or cause to be sent yearly for the said *East Indies*, or Parts within the Limits aforesaid, Goods, Wares, Merchandizes, Coin, Bullion, or other Commodities (being such as lawfully may be exported or sent thither) as shall amount to the Value of the Sum of 100*l.* and after the same Rate or Proportion for all the Annuities or whole Share or Proportion of the said Company of or in the said yearly Fund, the Trade of the said Company to the *East Indies*, and other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, shall be limited and regulated as in and by the said Act of Parliament is prescribed; which Benefit of Trade shall nevertheless be subject and liable to the Proviso of Redemption and all other Provisoes, Restrictions, Matters, and Things in the said Act or hereafter in these Presents contained. Provided always, and our Pleasure is, and we do hereby direct and appoint, that according to the Directions of the said Act of Parliament, no Person or Persons by these

these Presents incorporated, or who are or shall be a Member or Members of the said Company by these Presents established, during such Time as he or they respectively shall continue a Member or Members of the said Company, shall trade otherwise than in a joint Stock of the said Company; and every such Member or Members, before he or they shall be allowed to receive any Benefit in or by the said Company, or to do or intermeddle in any of the Affairs of the same, shall take a corporal Oath before Two or more of the Directors or Managers herein after-mentioned (who have hereby Power to administer the same) that he or she shall be faithful to such Company, according to the best of his or her Skill or Understanding, give his or her Advice, Counsel, and Assistance, for the Support and good Government of the said Company; and that he or she, during his or her Continuance in the said Company, will not at any Time or Times ship, lade, send, direct, or cause to be sent from *England* or any other Country to the *East Indies*, or other Parts within the Limits aforesaid, for his or their private Account, any Goods, Coins, or other Merchandizes, contrary to the said Act; and that no Person or Persons, that shall have the Order, Rule, Direction, or Management of the Voyages or other Affairs of the said Company, or that shall be intrusted or employed to trade upon the joint Stock or for the said Company, shall be allowed to ship or cause to be shipped, laden, or put on board, or to send or cause to be sent for the *East Indies*, or other Parts within the Limits aforesaid, any Goods, foreign Coin, or other Merchandizes whatsoever, from *England*, or any other Country, until he or she respectively shall have taken a corporal Oath before Two or more of the Directors of the said Company, or before the Barons of the Exchequer for the Time being, or some of them, that he or she respectively will be faithful to the said Company, and according to the best of his or her Skill or Understanding give his or her Advice, Counsel, and Assistance for the Support and good Govern-

Every Member to take an Oath.

Directors to take an Oath.

ment

ment of the same; and that he or she, during his or their Continuance in the said Company, will not at any Time or Times ship, lade, send, direct, or cause to be sent from *England*, or any other Country, for the *East Indies*, or other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, any Goods, Coins, or other Merchandizes, but such as he or she may lawfully send thither for the Account of the said Company, according to the true Meaning of the said Act. and of these Presents.

Quakers may
make a De-
claration. Provided always, That such Persons as are known or commonly reputed to be Quakers, instead of such Oath or Oaths, shall and may make a solemn Declaration in Writing to the same Effect and in the same Manner, and every such Declaration in Writing shall be of the same Validity as if he or they had taken a corporal Oath as aforesaid.

Entry of
Goods on the
separate Stock
to be made
upon Oath. And whereas in and by the said Act of Parliament it is provided and enacted, that all and every Person and Persons whatsoever that shall or may, in pursuance of the said Act, trade or send, or cause to be sent, any Goods, foreign Coins, or other Merchandizes, for the *East Indies*, or other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, before such Goods, foreign Coins, or other Merchandizes, or any of them (the Goods, foreign Coins, or other Merchandizes of such Company as should or might be erected, and which is hereby erected to trade with a joint Stock as aforesaid, only and always excepted) shall be shipped, laded, or put on board any Ship, or into any Lighter, Boat, or other Vessel for that Purpose, shall make or cause to be made an Entry or Entries of the same in a Book or Books for that Purpose, specifying in such Entry or Entries the true and full Quantities, Kinds, and Values of all the Goods, foreign Coins, or other Merchandizes so intended to be sent for the *East Indies*, or other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, from *England* or from any other Country whatsoever, with the Name of the Ship and of the Commander or Master thereof,

of, to the end it may be seen by the Inspection of such Book or Books (to which all Persons concerned are to have free Access at all seasonable Times without Fee or Charge) from time to time, whether such Traders do or do not send more Goods, Coins, or Merchandizes in the said Trade, than they respectively are allowed to send by the said Act; and all and every such Person and Persons, upon such Entry or Entries made, are required by the said Act to make and sign an Affirmation in Writing, in which he or they are to declare or affirm (upon the Oath or solemn Declaration which he or they shall previously have taken or made as aforesaid in that Behalf) that such Entry or Entries do contain the true and full Value and Values of all the Goods, Coins, or other Merchandizes to be shipped by or from him or them on such Ship for that Voyage; all such Entries and Affirmations were by the said Act directed to be made before Two or more of the Trustees for the General Society aforesaid, and in Books to be kept by them for that Purpose, until a Company with Power to trade upon a joint Stock should be erected; and after the erecting of any such Company (which is thereby made and established) then the like Entries and Affirmations are thereby appointed to be made before Two or more of the Directors or Managers of the said Company, and in Books to be kept by them for that Purpose: And in and by the said Act of Parliament it was also enacted, that if any Person or Persons, who are by the said Act required to make such Entries and Affirmations as the said Act directs, shall neglect so to do; or if any Goods, foreign Coins, or other Merchandizes so entered, shall be of greater Value than shall be specified in such Entry or Entries; that then and in every such Case, the Goods, foreign Coins, or other Merchandizes, shall be shipped or put on board any Ship or other Vessel designed for the *East Indies*, or any other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, or into any Lighter, Boat, or other Vessel, to be put upon any such Ship for which no such Entry or Affirmation shall be made, or which shall be omitted

To sign an
Affirmation
in Writing,

before Two
Trustees of
the General
Society, till
a Company is
erected;

then before
Two of the
Directors of
the Company.

omitted therein, and the Effects and Proceed of the same (wheresoever they shall be found) shall and may be seized, and the double Value thereof shall and may be sued for and recovered against the respective Offenders, and to be divided and distributed in such Manner and Form as we by our Charter or Charters should appoint: Our Will and Pleasure therefore is, and we do hereby, for us, our Heirs and Successors, will, declare, grant, direct, and appoint, that the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, and their Successors, shall from time to time keep or cause to be kept, within our City or Port of *London*, an Office and Books, wherein all the Entries and Affirmations required by the said Act to be made by particular Persons or Traders as aforesaid, may be made and entered; and that Two or more of the Directors or Managers of the said Company hereby established do from time to time and at all seasonable Times give such Attendance as shall be necessary at the said Office, as well for the administering such Oaths and Declarations as by the said Act are to be administered by them, as for the taking such Affirmations and admitting such Entries as are to be made by such particular Traders or Persons aforesaid: And we do by these Presents appoint and direct, and our Will is, that One Fourth Part of the said Forfeitures and Penalties last-mentioned shall go and be distributed to such Persons as seize in Form or sue for the same; and Three Fourth Parts of the said Forfeitures and Penalties, which shall be had or recovered at any time or times after the making of this our present Charter, shall go and be divided or distributed to the said Company hereby constituted, for the Benefit of the several Members thereof, according and in proportion to their Shares in the joint Stock of the same Forfeitures and Penalties, to be recovered in any Court of Record of us, our Heirs and Successors, by Action of Debt, Bill, Complaint, or Information, wherein no more than One Imparance shall be allowed.

Forfeitures
divided.

Pro-

Provided always, and we do hereby order and direct, that the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, and their Successors, shall give Security as the said Act directs, for bringing their Goods to some Part of *England* or *Wales*, there to be unladen and put on Shore (excepting in such Cases as in the said Act are mentioned to be excepted).

The Company to give Security for all their Goods to England.

And we do also require and command, that all Goods and Merchandizes of the *East Indies*, which shall be imported into *England* or *Wales* by the said Company, pursuant to the said Act and of these Presents, shall be sold openly and publicly, by Inch of Candle, as the said Act appoints, under the Penalties therein contained, upon Pain of incurring our high Displeasure.

All to be sold by Inch of Candle.

And we do hereby further, for us, our Heirs and Successors, direct, order, and appoint the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, and their Successors, that during the Continuance of the said Company, that no Lot of any Goods or Merchandizes of the said Company shall be put up or sold which shall exceed the Value of 1000 *l.* (Jewels excepted); and for the better Increase of Trade, and encouraging the Exportation of Goods and Merchandizes of the Growth, Product, or Manufacture of this Kingdom, it is our further Will and Pleasure, and it is hereby provided, and we do hereby, for us, our Heirs and Successors, order and appoint, and the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies* doth hereby covenant, promise, and grant, to and with us, our Heirs and Successors, that the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, and their Successors, yearly and every Year, from the Feast of Saint *Michael* the Archangel 1698, during the Continuance of their Trade to the said *East Indies*, by virtue of the said Act of Parliament or these Presents, shall export and carry, or cause to be exported and carried to the *East Indies*, Goods of the Growth, Product, or Manufacture of this our Kingdom of *England*,

No Lot to exceed 1000*l.*

Jewels excepted.

D

amounting

To export at
least 1-10th
in the Pro-
duct of Eng-
land.

amounting in Value at least to the Tenth Part of the whole Sum for which the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies* shall, by virtue of the said Act and of these Presents, actually trade thither; which Tenth Part is the same which the said Company ought to export in such Goods as afore-said for their Proportion, pursuant to a Clause contained in the Charter of the General Society called the General Society intituled to the Advantages given by Act of Parliament for advancing a Sum not exceeding Two Millions for the Service of the Crown of *England*, as Members of the same Society; and that the Directors of the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, and their Successors for the Time being, do and shall give and deliver unto us, our Heirs and Successors, in our or their Privy Council, yearly and every Year, in the Month of *October*, a true Account or Inventory fairly written, and signed by Two or more of the Directors of the said Company for the Time being, containing the Nature, Quantity, Quality, Value, and prime Costs of all such Goods of the Growth, Product, or Manufacture of this our Kingdom of *England*, as in the last preceding Year have been exported by the said Company, together with the Place, Town, or Port from whence the said Goods were exported to the *East Indies*; and that Oath be made of the Truth of such Account or Inventory by the proper Officers or Servants of the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, who shall keep their Books for the Entry of Goods outwards to the best of their Knowledge; and that none of the said Goods or Commodities so exported shall be again landed in our Kingdom of *England*, Dominion of *Wales*, or Town of *Berwick upon Tweed*, or be carried to any Country or Place but unto the *East Indies*, or some Place within the Limits afore-mentioned.

The Com-
pany to fur-
nish a Propor-

Provided also, and it is our further Will and Pleasure, and we do hereby, for us, our Heirs and Successors, order and appoint, and the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*

Indies doth hereby covenant, promise, and grant, to and with us, our Heirs and Successors, that the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, and their Successors, shall yearly and every Year, from the Feast of Saint *Michael* the Archangel 1700, during the Continuance of their said Trade to the *East Indies* by virtue of the said Act of Parliament or of these Presents, furnish, sell, or deliver unto the Officers of the Ordnance of us, our Heirs and Successors, or to such Person or Persons as we, our Heirs and Successors, shall in that Behalf direct or appoint, to our and their own Use, within the City of *London*, or 10 Miles thereof, such Proportion of good, clean, and merchantable Salt-petre as is herein after-mentioned, when and as the same shall be required by the Master, Lieutenant, or other chief Officer or Officers of or belonging to the Ordnance of us, our Heirs or Successors, or by such other Person or Persons as we, our Heirs or Successors, shall from time to time appoint, by Notice in Writing to be left at the principal Office of the said Company, we, our Heirs and Successors paying to the said Company and their Successors, or to their Treasurer for the Time being, for the Use and Account of the said Company, the prime Cost thereof, with the Freight, Duties, and other Charges thereupon, to be ascertained from time to time by the Oath of Three or more of the Directors of the said Company if required; which said Proportion of Salt-petre so to be furnished by the said Company shall from time to time be ascertained and determined in Manner following (that is to say) As the Sum of Two Millions reckoned in Money is to 500 Tons of Salt-petre in the Whole, so the Sum or Value which the said Company may, by virtue of the said Act or of these Presents, trade for in any One Year, shall be to the particular Quantity or Proportion of Salt-petre which the said Company shall be obliged to furnish for the Service of us, our Heirs and Successors as aforesaid, within or for every such Year respectively; which Proportion of Salt-petre is the same which the said Company, as Members of the said General

tion of 500
Tons of Salt
petre yearly.

Society, ought to furnish for their Proportions, pursuant to a Clause for furnishing of Salt-petre, contained in the afore-said Charter of the said General Society.

Allowance on
Payment of
Customs, as
the old Com-
pany.

And we do hereby for us, our Heirs and Successors, for the Encouragement of the said Company to carry on the said Trade by a joint Stock, and for their greater Inducement to make present Payment of their Customs, condescend, declare, and agree to and with the said Company and their Successors, that they shall have and enjoy, and shall have made to them all and every the several Allowances and Discounts in the Customs of the Goods and Merchandizes by them to be imported into this our Kingdom, as the present Governor and Company of Merchants of *London* trading to the *East Indies* hath held and enjoyed, and now do hold and enjoy, by virtue of a certain Clause in our Charter of Regulations granted to the same Company, dated the 28th of *September* 1694.

To maintain
Ministers and
Schoolmaster,

and a Chap-
lain on every
Ship of 500
Tons.

And we do hereby further will and appoint, That the said Company hereby established, and their Successors, shall constantly maintain a Minister and School-master in the Island of *St. Helena*, when the said Island shall come into the Hands or Possession of the said Company; and also One Minister in every Garrison and superior Factory, which the same Company or their Successors shall have in the same *East Indies* or other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid; and shall also in such Garrison and Factories respectively provide or set apart a decent or convenient Place for Divine Service only; and shall also take a Chaplain on board every Ship which shall be sent by the same Company to the said *East Indies*, or other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, which shall be of the Burthen of 500 Tons. or upwards, for such Voyages, the Salary of which Chaplain shall commence from the Time that such Ship shall depart from *England*: And moreover, that no such Minister shall be sent by the same Company to the

the said *East Indies*, or other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, until he shall have been first approved of by the Archbishop of *Canterbury* or the Bishop of *London* for the Time being ; all which said Ministers so to be sent shall be entertained from time to time with all due Respect.

By whom Ministers to be appointed.

And we do further will and appoint, That all such Ministers as shall be sent to reside in *India* as aforesaid, shall be obliged to learn within One Year after their Arrival the *Portuguese* Language, and shall apply themselves to learn the native Language of the Country where they shall reside, the better to enable them to instruct the Gentoos, that shall be the Servants or Slaves of the same Company or of their Agents, in the Protestant Religion ; and that in case of the Death of any of the said Ministers residing in the *East Indies*, or other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, the Place of such Minister so dying shall be supplied by one of the Chaplains out of the next Ships that shall arrive at or near the Place where such Ministers shall happen to die.

They are obliged to learn Portuguese and the native Language.

And we do hereby further will and direct, That the said Company and their Successors shall from time to time provide School-masters in all the said Garrisons and superior Factories where they shall be found necessary.

Schoolmasters to be provided.

And for the better ordering, managing, and governing the Affairs of the same Company, and for the making and establishing a continual Succession of Persons to be the Directors of the same, We do by these Presents for us, our Heirs and Successors, grant unto the said Body Politick so called the *English* Company trading to the *East Indies* and their Successors, and we do hereby ordain and appoint, That there shall be from time to time for ever (of the Members of the same Company) Twenty-four Directors of and in the same Company, which Directors, or any Thirteen or more of them, shall be and be called a Court of Directors for the ordering,

The 24 Directors, or any 13, to be a Court.

ordering, managing, and directing the Affairs of the same Company and Corporation, and shall have such Powers and Privileges as are herein after mentioned.

And we do hereby nominate, ordain, constitute, and appoint, That the said *Edward Allen, Abraham Beake, James Bateman, John Cary, Sir Henry Furnese, Peter Godfrey, Peter Gott, Gilbert Heathcote, Edmond Harrison, Sir Theodore Janssen, Samuel Lock, Edward Littleton, Joseph Martin, Streynsham Master, Ephraim Montague, Peter Paggen, Robert Raworth, Benjamin Rokeby, Samuel Shepheard, Sir William Scawen, William Stewart, Thomas Vernon, William Withers, and George White*, who are severally chosen for this Purpose by a Majority of the said Subscribers by these Presents incorporated in the said Company, shall be the present and first Directors of the same Company; and the said Directors shall continue in their respective Offices or Trusts until the 25th Day of *March* which shall be in the Year of our Lord 1700, and until others shall be duly chosen in their respective Offices or Trusts, and sworn into the same, unless they or any of them shall sooner die or be removed as is herein after mentioned.

To continue
to the 25th of
March 1700,
and till others
duly chosen.

Members
may meet to
chooſe Direc-
tors and make
By-laws.

Members ſo
aſſembled
called a Ge-
neral Court.

And we do further by theſe Presents for us, our Heirs and Successors, give and grant unto the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies* and their Successors, and we do hereby ordain, will, and appoint, That it shall and may be lawful to and for all and every the Members of the same Company hereby established, from time to time to assemble and meet together at any convenient Place or Places for the Choice of their Directors, and for making of Bye-laws, Ordinances, Rules, Orders, or Directions for the Government of the said Company, or for any other Affairs or Business concerning the same; and that all the Members of the same Company, or so many of them as shall be so assembled, shall be and be called a General Court of the said Company

or Corporation, which Court shall assemble and meet at such Times and in such Manner as hereafter is directed; and that all succeeding Directors of the same Company shall, from and after the said 25th Day of *March* 1700, be yearly and successively chosen for ever out of the Members of the same Company on some Day or Days, Time or Times, between the 25th Day of *March* and the 25th Day of *April* in each Year, by the Majority of Votes of all and every the Members of the same Company, having then each of them 500 *l.* or more Share or Interest in the Stock of the same Company, and who shall be personally present at such Elections, each of them to have and give One Vote and no more; and that every particular Corporation or Body Politick, that shall have 500 *l.* or more Share or Interest of or in the Stock of the said Company, in respect thereof at every such Election, and at all General Courts for the said Company, shall have One Vote for the whole Share or Interest of such particular Corporation or Body Politick and no more; which Votes for such particular Corporations or Bodies Politick shall and may be given by such Person or Persons as shall be deputed thereunto under the Common Seals of such Corporations or Bodies Politick respectively; and the said succeeding Directors, so chosen, shall severally and respectively continue in their respective Offices or Trusts to which they shall be severally elected for One Year, and till others shall be duly chosen and sworn into their Places respectively.

All succeeding Directors to be chosen between 25 March and 25 April.

None to give more than One Vote.

A Corporation may send a Vote by a Deputy.

Provided nevertheless, That in case of Death, Avoidance, or Removal of any of the Directors of the said Company for the Time being, the Survivors of them, or the Majority of those remaining in their Office, shall and may at any Time assemble together the Members of the said Company in order to elect other Persons, by Members qualified to vote in Manner aforesaid, in the Room of those then dead, removed, or avoided.

The surviving Directors may assemble the Members to elect other Directors in Room of any deceased.

Provided

None to vote
but who has
500 l.

Provided nevertheless, and we do hereby will and ordain, constitute, appoint, and command, That no Person or Persons shall be or be esteemed qualified or capable to be an Elector or vote, or shall give any Vote at any General Court or otherwise for an Election of the Directors or any of them, or for or concerning the making of Bye-Laws, or in any other Manner relating to the Affairs or Government of the same Company, who shall not at the Time of such General Court have in his or their Name and Right, and for his or their own Use and not in Trust for any other, 500 l. or more Share or Interest in the said Capital Stock of the said Company, and who also shall not at the Time of holding any such General Court take the Oath hereafter mentioned, if required thereunto by any Member or Members of the same Company then present, having each 500 l. Share or Interest at least in the Stock, before Two or more of the Directors of the same Company; viz.

Oath thereof
to be made if
required.

“ I A. B. do swear that the Sum of 500 l. or more of the Capital Stock of the Body Politick, called by the Name of the *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, doth at this Time belong to me in my own Right, and not in Trust for any other Person or Persons whatsoever.”

And none to
give more
than One
Vote:

And we do hereby ordain and appoint, That no One Member of the said Company shall, in any Election of any Director or Directors or other Officers of the said Company, or in any the Business or Affairs of the same, have or give any more than One Vote, whatsoever his Share or Interest in the said Principal Stock or Fund shall be.

Quakers to
make a De-
claration of
their having
500 l. Stock.

Provided nevertheless, That any Person commonly called or known to be Quakers, who at the Time of holding such General Court as aforesaid shall have 500 l. Interest or Shares as aforesaid, and shall then, if thereunto required by any Member

Member or Members of the said Company then present, having each 500 *l.* Share or Interest at least in the said Stock, make and sign the following Declaration ; *viz.*

“ **I** *A. B.* do sincerely and solemnly declare, in the Presence of God, That the Sum of 500 *l.* or more of the Capital Stock of the Body Politick called by the Name of the *English* Company trading to the *East Indies* doth at this Time belong to me in my own Right, and not in Trust for any other Person or Persons whatsoever, shall be capable of having a Vote at any General Court of the same Company.”

Provided also, That such Person or Persons as shall be deputed as aforesaid to vote for any particular Corporation or Body Politick, making the like Oath or Declaration (*mutatis mutandis*) to the best of his or their Knowledge and Belief for or on the Behalf of such particular Corporation or Body Politick for whom he or they are to give such Voice or Voices as aforesaid, shall be capable of voting at any such General Courts as aforesaid.

Deputy of a Corporation to make the like Oath to the best of his Knowledge.

And we do by these Presents for us, our Heirs and Successors, give full Power and Authority to any Two or more of the Directors of the same Company, for the Time being, to give and administer the said Oaths and Declarations to the said Members and Deputies, and do hereby order and direct them to administer the same accordingly.

Two Directors empowered to give the Oath.

Provided also, and we do hereby for us, our Heirs and Successors, constitute, ordain, and appoint, That no Person shall be capable of being chosen a Director of the said Company who shall not at the Time of such Choice be a natural born Subject of *England* or naturalized, and shall not also then have in his own Name, or in his own Right, and for his own Use 2000 *l.* or more in the said Stock ; and that no Director or

None to be Director but who has 2000 *l.* Stock ;

E

Directors

nor to continue longer than he keeps the same.

Directors shall continue in his or t^eir respective Offices longer than the Continuance of such their respective Interests and Stocks in their own Name and Rights, and to their own Uses respectively; but upon parting with or deducting his or their respective Shares or Interests in the said Stock to any lesser Sum or Sums than as aforesaid, the said respective Offices or Places of such Director or Directors, so parting with, reducing, or diminishing their said Shares or Interests as aforesaid, shall cease, determine, and become vacant, and others shall be chosen in their Room by a General Court of the same Company.

No Director to act till he has taken 2000l. Stock;

or if a Quaker, to make Declaration.

Provided also, and we do by these Presents for us, our Heirs and Successors, will, ordain, and appoint that none of them the said *Edward Allen, Abraham Beake, James Bateman, John Cary, Sir Henry Furnese, Peter Godfrey Peter Gott, Gilbert Heathcote, Edmund Harrison, Sir Theodore Janssen, Samuel Locke, Edward Littleton, Joseph Martin, Streynsham Master, Ephraim Montague, Peter Paggen, Robert Raworth, Benjamin Rokeby, Samuel Shepheard, Sir William Scawen, William Stewart, Thomas Vernon, William Withers, and George White*, hereby nominated, constituted, and appointed to be the first Twenty-four Directors of the said Company, or any other Person or Persons hereafter to be chosen to the Office or Trust of a Director for the said Company, shall be capable to execute or act in the said Office of Director until he or they respectively shall have taken the Corporal Oath following; or if he or they be commonly reputed a Quaker or Quakers, then till he or they respectively shall have made a solemn Declaration to the same Effect (to wit);

“ I *A. B.* do affirm, That the Sum of 2000*l.* of the Stock
 “ of the *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*,
 “ whereof I am appointed or elected to be a Director, doth
 “ at this Time belong to me in my own Right, and not in
 “ Trust for any other Person or Persons whatsoever:”

And

And likewise another solemn Oath of Declaration in the Form or to the Effect following (to wit) ;

“ I *A. B.* do faithfully promise, That in the Office of a Director of the *Engliff* Company trading to the *East Indies*, I will be indifferent and equal to all manner of Persons, and I will give my best Advice and Assistance for the Support and good Government of the said Company ; and in the Execution of the said Office of a Director I will faithfully and honestly demean myself according to the best of my Skill and Understanding :”

Another Oath
of a Director.

Which Oath and Declarations to the first Twenty-four Directors herein nominated, and every of them respectively, shall and may be administered by our Chancellor of *England*, or Keeper of our Great Seal of *England*, or by the Chancellors of the Exchequer, or Chief Baron of our Court of Exchequer, or by any Two or more of the said first Directors, which shall first have taken the said Oaths or Declarations : And the said Oaths and Declarations to any future Director and Directors shall and may be administered by the Chancellor of *England*, or Keeper of the Great Seal of *England*, or by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, of us, our Heirs and Successors, for the Time being, or any of them, or by any Two or more of the sworn Directors for the preceding Year ; and they are hereby authorized and required to administer the said Oath and Declarations respectively to all and every such Director and Directors from time to time accordingly.

By whom to
be admini-
stered.

And furthermore our Will and Pleasure is, and we do hereby for us our Heirs and Successors, ordain and appoint, That the said Court of Directors shall have Power and Authority to administer an Oath to all the inferior Agents or Servants that shall be employed in the Service of the same Company, for the faithful and due Execution of the several

Directors to
give an Oath
to their
Agents and
Servants.

Places and Trusts in them reposed, in the Words or to the Effect following (that is to say) ;

“ I *A. B.* being elected into the Office or Place of Treasurer to the *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, do swear, That I will be true and faithful to the said Company, and will faithfully and truly execute and discharge the said Office or Place of Treasurer to the utmost of my Skill and Power. So help me God.”

A Director not qualified in 10 Days, the Place to be void.

And the like Oath to the other Agents and Servants (*mutatis mutandis*); And in case any Person hereby nominated, or hereafter be elected a Director as aforesaid, shall for the Space of Ten Days after such Nomination or Election neglect or refuse to take the respective Oath or Declaration hereby appointed to be taken as aforesaid, or shall refuse or neglect to take upon him his or their Offices, that then and in every such Case the Office and Place of every such Person so neglecting or refusing shall become vacant, and others shall be chosen in their Places by a General Court of the said Company.

4 General Courts to be held in a Year.

And we do hereby will and appoint, That the said Directors, or the major Part of them for the Time being, shall from time to time, and they are hereby required so to do, summon and appoint four General Courts at least in every Year, whereof one to be in the Month of *December*, another in the Month of *March*, another in the Month of *June*, and another in the Month of *September*.

In Failure thereof, Directors may

And we do further will and appoint, That if at any Time or Times there should be a Failure of holding a General Court in any of the said Months by the Default of the Directors, or the major Part of them, that then and so often, and in every such Case, Three or more of the Directors of the said Company shall and may summon and call a General Court,

Court, which shall meet and be holden in the Month next coming after the Month in which the same should have been holden upon the Summons of the Majority of the Directors aforesaid.

And moreover, we do by these Presents will, direct, and appoint, That the said Directors, or the major Part of them, for the Time being, shall from time to time, upon Demand to be made by any Nine or more of the said Members, having each of them 500 *l.* or more Interest or Share of the said Stock, within Ten Days after such Demand, summon and call such General Courts to be held of the Members of the same Company qualified for Electors as aforesaid; and in Default of the said Directors, or the major Part of them, to summon and call such a Court, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Nine or more Members, having each 500 *l.* Stock as aforesaid, upon Ten Days Notice in Writing, to be fixed upon the *Royal Exchange* in *London*, to summon and hold a General Court, and there to do and dispatch any Business relating to the Government or Affairs of the said Company, and to hear and debate any Complaint that shall be made against any Director or Directors for Mismanagement in his or their Office or Offices; and if such Director and Directors shall not clear him or themselves of such Complaint to the Satisfaction of the major Part of the Members of the same Company in the said General Court assembled, that then within Ten Days another General Court shall be called, and held as aforesaid of the Members of the same Company, qualified to vote as aforesaid, finally to determine the same by the Majority of their Votes as aforesaid, who may remove and may displace any Director for Mismanagement. or displace all or any of the said Directors for such Misdeameanors or Abuse of their Offices, and elect and chuse others in his or their Rooms in manner before prescribed; and in every such Case where any Director or Directors shall happen to die or be removed, or his Office shall otherwise become void before the Expiration of the Term for which he shall have

have been elected, the major Part of the Members of the same Company to be assembled in a General Court, and being qualified as aforesaid, shall and may elect and chuse any other Member or Members of the said Company, qualified as aforesaid, into the Office of such Director or Directors that shall so die or be removed, or whose Office shall become void; which Person so to be chosen shall continue in the said Office until the next usual Time hereby pointed for Election, and until others shall be duly chosen and sworn, unless he shall be removed as aforesaid.

The Directors or any 13 may hold Courts, &c.

and shall act according to the Bye-laws, and where they are wanting, shall do all the Business of the Company.

And, for the better ordering and managing of the Affairs of the same Company, We do by these Presents for us, our Heirs and Successors, grant, and We do by these Presents will, authorize, and appoint, That the said Directors for the Time being, or any Thirteen or more of them, shall and may from time to time, and at all convenient Times assemble and meet together at any convenient Place or Places for the Direction and Management of the Affairs and Business of the same Company, and then and there to hold Courts of the Directors for the Purpose aforesaid, and summon General Courts to meet as often as they shall see Cause; and that the said Directors, or the major Part of them so assembled, shall and may act according to such Bye-Laws, Constitutions, Orders, Rules, or Directions, as shall from time to time be made and given unto them by the General Court of the said Company; and in all Cases where any such Bye-Laws, Constitutions, Orders, Rules, or Directions, by or from the General Court shall be wanting, the said Directors, or the major Part of them so assembled, shall and may direct and manage all the Affairs and Business of the said Company, in the Direction of all the Voyages of or for the same Company, and the Provision of the Shipping and Merchandizes thereunto belonging, as also the Sale of the Merchandizes, Goods, and other Things returned in all or any the Voyages or Ships of or for the said Company, and in the transacting and handling of all other Matters,

Matters or Things touching or concerning the same Company; and shall and may chuse and appoint their Agents or Servants which shall from time to time be necessary to be employed therein, and to allow and pay reasonable Salaries and Allowances to the said Agents and Servants respectively, and them, or any of them, from time to time to remove or displace as they shall see Cause, and generally to act and do in all Matters and Things whatsoever, which by the said recited Act of Parliament shall or may be done, and in all Matters and Things whatsoever which they shall judge necessary for the well ordering and managing of the same Company and the Affairs thereof; and to do, enjoy, perform, and execute all the Powers, Authorities, Privileges, Acts, and Things in relation to the said Company as fully, to all Intents and Purposes, as if the same were done by the whole Company, or by a general Court of the same; subject nevertheless to such Restrictions, Limitations, Rules, or Appointments as are contained in the said recited Act of Parliament, or in these Presents in that Behalf.

And we do hereby for us, our Heirs and Successors, grant to the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, That all and every the said Members qualified for Electors as aforesaid, shall have full Power, and they are hereby authorized in the general Courts or Assemblies aforesaid, by Majority of their Votes as aforesaid, to make and constitute reasonable Bye-Laws, Constitutions, Orders, and Ordinances from time to time, as well for raising and calling in and Payment of Monies for an additional Joint Stock, for the better carrying on and managing the said Trade, and for applying and proportioning the Profits, Advantages, and Produce arising by the said Joint Stock and Trade, as for the good Government of the said Trade to the *East Indies*, and other the Parts aforesaid, and of the Factors, Agents, Officers, and others concerned in the same; and to inflict reasonable Penalties and Punishments by Imprisonments, Mulcts,

as they shall
judge neces-
sary.

The General
Court to
make Bye-
Laws for
calling in Mo-
ney, making
Dividends,

and Govern-
ment of the
Company.

Mulcts, Fines, or Amerciaments for any Breach or Breaches thereof; and to levy such Fines, Mulcts, or Amerciaments to the Use of the said Company and their Successors, so that such Bye Laws be not repugnant to the Laws of this our Kingdom, and be confirmed and approved according to the Statutes in such Cases made and provided; all which said Mulcts, Fines, and Amerciaments shall and may be recovered and received, to the only Use and Behoof of the said Company and their Successors, without any Account, or other Matter or Thing, to be therefore rendered to us our Heirs and Successors.

The First General Court to be held in Forty Days.

And we do hereby for us, our Heirs and Successor, ordain and appoint That the first General Court for the said Company hereby established shall be held within the Space of Forty Days next after the Date of these Presents.

Books of Account of the principal and additional Stock to be kept by an Accomptant, and to be by him attested on Oath if required.

Provided always, and for the ascertaining and limiting how and in what manner and under what Rules, as well the principal Stock or yearly Funds as also an additional Stock which the said Company shall acquire, or which any Member or Members thereof shall or may advance or pay into the said Company, for the managing or carrying on the said Trade, or the Shares or Interests of the several Members of and in the principal and additional Stock, shall and may be assignable and assigned, transferrable and transferred, by such Person and Persons, Corporation or Corporations, as shall from time to time have any Interest or Share in the same; We do hereby direct and appoint, that the same Company and their Successors shall cause an Accomptant to keep a Book or Books in the publick Office or Place of Meeting of the same Company, to be provided for that Purpose, and therein fairly to enter or cause to be entered from time to time the Account, as well of the principal Joint Stock of the said Company, as of such additional Stock (if any be) as aforesaid; the same to be

And we do hereby for us, our Heirs and Successors, pursuant and according to the Power given unto us by the said Act of Parliament, order, direct, limit, and appoint, that the Method and Manner of making all Assignments and Transfers, as well of the said principal Stock and Fund as of the additional Stock of the same Company, or any Part thereof, shall be by an Entry in the said Book or Books, signed by the Party so assigning or transferring, in the Words or to the Effect following, viz.

“ MEMORANDUM, That I *A. B.* this Day by the Person
 “ of in the Year of our Lord present:
 “ do assign and transfer
 “ of my Interest or Share, or
 “ being my Share or Interest in the principal Stock, and
 “ in the additional Stock and
 “ Fund of the *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*,
 “ and all Benefit arising thereby unto
 “ his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns.”
Witness my Hand

Or in Case the assigning Person be not personally present, then by an Entry in the said Book or Books signed by some Person thereunto lawfully authorized, by Letter of Attorney or Writing, duly sealed and attested by Two or more Witnesses in the Words, or to the Effect following, viz.

“ MEMORANDUM, That I *A. B.* this Day
 “ of in the Year of our Lord by
 “ virtue of a Letter of Attorney from
 “ dated the Day of in the said Year
 “ do in the Name and on the Behalf of
 “ assign and transfer

“ of the Interest or Share or
 “ being the Share or Interest of the said
 “ in the principal Stock and Fund, and
 “ in the said additional Stock
 “ of the *English*-Company trading to the *East Indies*, and all
 “ Benefit arising thereby unto his
 “ Executors, Administrators, and Assigns.”

Witness my Hand

And by no
 other Way.

And that the Entry signed as aforesaid and no other Way or Method shall be the Manner and Method used in the passing, assigning, or transferring the Interest or Share in the said Stock and Fund, and such Transfers or Assignments shall be good and available, and convey the whole Estate and Interest of the Party transferring, or ordering the same to be transferred.

Stock may be
 devised by
 Will, but the
 Devisee not
 to receive
 or transfer till
 a Memorandum be entered, &c.

Provided always, That any Person having any Share or Interest in the said Stock and Fund may dispose or devise the same by his last Will and Testament, attested by Three or more credible Witnesses; but however, that such Devisee shall not transfer the same, or be intitled to receive any Dividend, until an Entry or Memorandum of so much of the said Will as relates to the said Stock and Fund be made in the said Book or Books, to be kept by the Company for that Purpose.

In case of
 Equality
 Votes to be
 decided by
 Lot.

And we do hereby will and appoint, That in all Cases where there shall be an Equality or equal Number of Votes in any general Courts, or in any Court of Directors, to be holden as aforesaid, the Matters shall be determined by Lots, which the Treasurer for the said Company shall cause to be prepared and drawn for that Purpose.

Business may
 done by the

Provided nevertheless, That all Matters and Things which the said Directors, or the major Part of them, shall in Manner

ner as aforesaid order and direct to be by Sub-Committees, Sub-Com-
 or other Persons appointed under them, shall and may, by mittees.
 virtue of such Orders, be done by the said Sub-Committees,
 or other Persons so appointed.

And whereas by the said Act of Parliament all Goods of Recital of
 the Growth, Product, or Manufacture of the *East In-* the Duty of
dies, or any other Country or Place within the Limits afore- 5 per Cent.
 said, which from and after the said 29th Day of *September* on Goods im-
 1698, shall be imported into the Kingdom of *England*, Dominion ported,
 of *Wales*, and Town of *Berwick upon Tweed*, by any Cor-
 poration, Person or Persons, trading within the Limits
 aforesaid, by virtue or in pursuance of the said Act, are
 charged with a Duty after the Rate of 5*l.* for every 100*l.*
 of the true and real Value of the said Goods, which Duty
 was thereby directed to be paid over from time to time to
 the said General Society of Subscribers and their Successors,
 or such Treasurer or Treasurers, so as such Society shall ap-
 point to receive the same, unless a Company upon the De-
 sire of the Subscribers, or any of them, should be erected in
 pursuance of the said Act, to trade to the *East Indies* with a
 joint Stock as aforesaid; and from and after the erecting and
 settling of such Company which is hereby established, then
 the said Duty of 5*l. per Cent.* is by the said Act directed to
 be paid over to such Company and their Successors, or to
 their Treasurer, to the End that the said General Society for what Use
 and the said Company respectively, might out of their Pro- and how to
 duce of the said Duty of 5*l. per Cent.* maintain such Amba- be disposed of.
 sadors or other Ministers as we, our Heirs and Successors, at
 the Nomination of the Trustees, Directors, or Managers,
 of or for the General Society aforesaid, or of such Company,
 should be pleased to send to any Emperor, Prince, or State,
 within the Parts aforesaid, and defray any other extraordi-
 nary or necessary Expences in carrying on the said Trade;
 and if at any time or times there should be any Overplus of
 the Produce of the said Duty, the same by the Direction of

the said Act is to be disposed from time to time to and for the Benefit of all the Members of the said General Society, until the Company hereby established to trade with a joint Stock should be erected as aforesaid, and after such Company should be erected, then to and for the Benefit of all the Members thereof, according to their respective Shares or Interests in the principal or capital Stock of the same, as by the said Act may appear.

The said 5 per Cent. Duty to be paid over to the Receiver General of the Customs to the Company, to be applied as aforesaid, necessary Charges excepted.

Our Will and Pleasure therefore is, and we do hereby for us, our Heirs and Successors, direct, authorize, and command, that the Receiver and Receivers general of the Customs of us, our Heirs and Successors for the Time being, and all others who shall or may have the Receipt of the said Duties after the Rate of *5l. per Cent.* or any Part thereof, do and shall from time to time answer and pay over to the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, and their Successors, or to their Treasurer for the Time, to be applied as aforesaid, all the Money arising by the said Duties last mentioned (the necessary Charges of raising, collecting, and answering the same only excepted) and that the Commissioners of our Treasury and under Treasurer of our Exchequer now being, and Treasurer and under Treasurer of the Exchequer, and the Commissioners of the Treasury of us, our Heirs and Successors for the Time being, and the Commissioners of the Customs now being, or that shall hereafter be, and all others to whom it may appertain, do from time to time give their Warrants and Orders for paying over the said Duties of *5l. per Cent.* to the said Company, or their Treasurer for the Time being, for the Purposes aforesaid, according to the true Intent and Meaning of the said Act of Parliament and of these Presents, for which these Presents, or the Inrolment, or Exemplifications thereof, shall be to them and every of them a sufficient Warrant and Discharge in that Behalf.

The sole Trade to the

And moreover we have granted, and by these Presents, for us, our Heirs and Successors, do grant to the said *Eng-
ish*

lish Company trading to the *East Indies*, and their Successors, that they and their Successors, and their Factors, Servants, and Assigns in the Trade of Merchandizes for them and on their Behalf, and not otherwise, together with such other Persons and Corporations only as by the said Act of Parliament, or our Royal Charter or Charters in pursuance thereof, may lawfully trade or traffick to the said *East Indies*, or other the Parts aforesaid, shall for ever hereafter have, use, and enjoy the whole, intire, and only Liberty, Use, and Privilege of Trading, Traffick, and using the Trade of Merchandize to and from the said *East Indies*, and to and from all the Islands, Ports, Havens, Cities, Towns, and Places aforesaid, in such Manner and Form, and by such Proportion, and subject to such Restrictions, Proviso of Redemption, and other Provisoes, Conditions, Matters, and Things, as in and by the said Act of Parliament and by these Presents, and by our said Charter granted to the said General Society, and every or any of them, are expressed, declared, or appointed; and that the said *East Indies*, or the said Islands, Havens, Ports, Cities, Towns, or Places within the Limits aforesaid, or any of them, shall not, after the said 29th Day of *September* 1698, be visited, frequented, or haunted by any other of the Subjects of us, our Heirs and Successors, during such Time as the Benefit of Trade given or intended to be given to the same Company, and others as aforesaid, ought to continue by virtue of the said Act.

East Indies
granted,

subject to the
Proviso of
Redemption.

And we do by these Presents, for us, our Heirs and Successors, strictly charge, command, and prohibit all the Subjects of us, our Heirs and Successors, of what Degree or Quality soever they be, that none of them directly or indirectly visit, haunt, frequent, or trade, traffick or adventure unto or from any the said *East Indies*, or the other Parts aforesaid, contrary to the true Meaning of the said Act, under the Penalties therein contained, and upon Pain of incurring our highest Displeasure (excepting the said Company

Their Ships
charged out-
ward before
the 1st July
1693, not
liable to For-
feiture.

pany and such others as may lawfully go and trade to the *East Indies*, and other the Parts aforesaid, by virtue of the said Act, or of our Royal Charter or Charters pursuant thereunto, and excepting their Factors, Agents, and Servants respectively, who shall be employed according to the true Meaning of the said Act); and so as the Governors and Company of Merchants of *London* trading to the *East Indies* formerly constituted shall not be restrained hereby from continuing to trade within the Limits aforesaid until the 29th Day of *September* 1701, and so as such Ships not in the Service of the said Governor and Company of Merchants of *London* trading to the *East Indies*, which were cleared outward from *London* or elsewhere for the *East Indies*, or other Limits aforesaid, before the 1st Day of *July* 1693, or the Lading thereof, so as they return into some Port of this Kingdom without breaking Bulk in any Part of *Europe*, shall not be liable to any the Penalties, Forfeitures, or Displeasure before-mentioned.

The Com-
pany may
seize Ship and
Goods for
Want of En-
try, &c.

And we do hereby, for us, our Heirs and Successors, give and grant full Power and Authority to the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, and their Successors for the Time being, that they, by themselves, their Deputies, Factors, Substitutes, and Assigns, shall and may from time to time and at all times hereafter take and seize all such Ships, Vessels, Goods, Merchandize, Bullion, Wares, and Commodities whatsoever, in *England* or the *East Indies*, or elsewhere, which by virtue of the said Act of Parliament shall or may be forfeited or shall be seizable for want of an Entry or for any false Entry in the Books of the said Company, or for want of Affirmation to be made as the said Act directs, or for Non-payment of the said Duty of 5 *per Cent.* or for unlawful trading or trafficking, or for any other Offence against the said Act, or for any Cause whatsoever whereupon the same or any of them shall be forfeited, or shall or may be seized by virtue of the said Act; and, for that End and Purpose,

Purpose, shall and may from time to time make search, do, and may do perform, and execute all such Matters and Things, and in all that Custom house Officers do in order thereunto. such ample Manner and Form, as any Officer or Officers of the Customs of us, our Heirs and Successors, can or may lawfully do, perform, or execute in or for the Seizing and Recovering of any uncustomed or prohibited Goods whatsoever.

Provided always, and we do hereby, for us, our Heirs and Successors, give and grant unto the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, and their Successors, full Power and Authority at any time or times, and from time to time hereafter, to license and permit all or any the Agents, Factors, and Mariners, which from time to time or at any time hereafter shall be employed by the said Company in the Ships of or belonging to or in the Service of the said Company, and set out on the Account of the said Company, to trade and traffick, and to export and import in such Ships, to and from any Part of the *East Indies*, or to other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, and for and upon the only Account of such Agents, Factors, and Mariners, or any of them, such Commodities and Goods, and such Proportions thereof, and in such Manner and Form, as shall from time to time be permitted and allowed of by the Majoriry of Votes at a General Court of the said Company for the Time being, and not otherwise; and also to license and permit any other Person or Persons, Corporations (the Bank of *England* only excepted) at any time or times to trade or traffick, and to import in any of the Ships of the said Company, or set out on Account of the said Company, to and from any Part of the said *East Indies*, or other the Parts within the Limits aforesaid, any Diamonds, Jewels, Pearls, precious Stones, Musk, Ambergrease, and other Commodities, or any of them, and in such Manner and Form as by the said General Court, or the major Part of the Members composing the same from time to time, should be thought convenient, due Entries being

The Company may license any Person in their Service to trade in such Commodities and Proportion as shall be allowed by a General Court and not otherwise, and may license any other, except the Bank, to trade in Jewels, as by the General Court shall be thought convenient, so as the whole do not exceed what may be yearly traded for by the Act.

being made thereof, and the Duties of the same being paid or secured at the Custom-house of us, our Heirs and Successors, at the Place where the same shall be imported before the Landing thereof; so always that the Sum for which the said Company and the said Agents, Factors, or Mariners, Persons and Corporations, so to be licensed and permitted by the said Company shall yearly trade, do not exceed the yearly Sum and Proportion for which the said Company may lawfully trade yearly by virtue of the said Act of Parliament and these Presents.

The Company to have the Government of all their Forts, &c. and to appoint Governors;

and may raise Forces to defend the said Forts, &c.

The sovereign Right reserved.

Courts of Judicature established where the Company shall direct.

And we do of our special Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, for us, our Heirs and Successors, give and grant to the said *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, That the said Company for the Time being shall and may have the ordering, Rule, and Government of all such Forts, Factories, and Plantations as shall be at any Time hereafter settled by or under the said *English* Company within the *East Indies* or Parts before-mentioned, and shall and may name and appoint Governors and Officers from time to time in and for the said Forts, Factories, and Plantations, and them to remove and displace at their Will and Pleasure; and that such Governors and Officers shall and may, according to the Directions of the same Company, raise, train, and muster such military Forces as shall or may be necessary for the Defence of the said Forts, Places, and Plantations respectively (the sovereign Right, Power, and Dominion over all the said Forts, Places, and Plantations, to us, our Heirs and Successors, being always reserved).

And we have thought fit to erect and establish, and we do by these Presents erect and establish One or more Court or Courts of Judicature, to be held at such Place or Places, Fort or Forts, Plantations or Factories upon the said Coasts, as the said Company hereby established shall from time to time direct and appoint; every such Court to consist of One Person

Person learned in the Civil Laws, and Two Merchants, What Persons
 with such Officers of the said Courts as shall be thought ne- the Court is
 cessary, to be nominated and appointed from time to time to consist of.
 by the said Company in the General Court of the Members,
 or by the major Part of them then present and capable of
 voting as aforesaid; and the said Person learned in the Civil Their Com-
 Law or Two Merchants, or the major Part of them, whereof mission and
 the said Person learned in the Civil Law to be one, shall have Power,
 Commission and Power to hear and determine all Cases of
 Forfeitures and Seizures of any Ship or Ships, Goods and
 Merchandizes, trading and coming upon any of the said
 Coasts or Limits contrary to the Intent of the said Act and
 of these Presents; and also all Causes mercantile or maritime,
 bargaining, buying, selling, and bartering of Ware whatso-
 ever; and all Policies and Acts of Insurance, all Bills,
 Bonds, and Promises for Payment of Money, mercantile
 or trading Contracts, Charter-parties or trading Contracts
 for Freightment of Vessels and Wages of Mariners, and all
 other mercantile and maritime Cases whatsoever concerning
 any Person or Persons residing, coming, or being within the
East Indies or other the Limits aforesaid; and all Cases of
 Trespases, Injuries and Wrong done and committed upon
 the High Sea, or in any the Regions, Countries, or Places
 within the Limits aforesaid concerning any Person or Persons
 residing, being, or coming in the Parts of *Asia*, *Africa*,
 and *America*, within the Parts and Limits aforesaid; all
 which Cases shall be adjudged and determined by the said
 Court or Courts upon due Examination and Proof, accord-
 ing to the Rules of Equity and good Conscience, and accord-
 ing to the Laws and Custom of Merchants, by such To be exe-
 Methods and Rules of proceeding as we, our Heirs and cuted by such
 Successors, shall from time to time direct and appoint under Rules as shall
 our Great Seal or Privy Seal, and for want of such Di- be directed
 rection, and until such Directions shall be made, by such under the
 Ways and Means as by the Judges of the said respective Great Seal or
 Court or Courts shall, in their best Judgment and Discretion, Privy Seal,
 and for want
 of such Di-

reſolution as the Judges of the ſaid Courts ſhall think meet. be thought meet and juſt, whether it be a ſummary Way or otherwiſe, according to the Exigency of the ſeveral Caſes which ſhall be brought in Judgment before them; and all Judgments, Determinations, and Decrees made in the ſame Courts are to be put in Writing, and ſigned by the ſame Perſons that were preſent at and gave or made the ſame, and ſhall contain a ſhort State of the Matter of Fact as it appeared to them, and their Sentence and Adjudication thereupon.

The Company to enjoy all Privileges in London that any Company of Merchants did or do or may enjoy. And further we do for us, our Heirs and Succeſſors, give and grant to the ſaid *Engliſh* Company trading to the *East Indies* hereby eſtabliſhed, That they ſhall enjoy, to all Intents and Purpoſes, all Privileges in the City of *London*, as fully as any Company of Merchants eſtabliſhed by Letters Patents granted heretofore by us, or any of our Predeceſſors, at preſent do or may enjoy, or formerly did and might enjoy the ſame.

All Admirals, &c. aſſiſting. And further we do hereby for us, our Heirs and Succeſſors, charge and command all and ſingular Admirals, Vice-Admirals, Generals, Commanders, Commiſſioners of our Customs, Mayors, Sheriffs, Juſtices of the Peace, Comptrollers, Waiters, Searchers, and other Officers and Miniſters of us, our Heirs and Succeſſors whatſoever, to be from time to time in all Things aiding, helping, and aſſiſting unto the ſame Company and their Succeſſors, or any employed by them, upon Requeſt made, as they tender our Diſpleaſure.

This Charter to be conſtrued in the moſt beneficial Senſe for the Company. And we do for us, our Heirs and Succeſſors, grant and declare, That theſe our Letters Patents, or the Enrollment thereof, ſhall be in and by all Things valid and effectual in the Law, according to the true Intent and Meaning of the ſame, and ſhall be taken, conſtrued, and adjudged in the moſt favourable and beneficial Senſe for the beſt Advantage of

of the said Company, as well in our Courts of Record as
elsewhere, notwithstanding any Non-recital, Mis-recital,
Defect, Incertainty, or Imperfection in these our Letters
Patents.

And our Will and Pleasure is, That these Presents, under
our Great Seal of *England*, shall be in due Manner made and
sealed, without Fine or Fee, great and small, to us in our
Hanaper or elsewhere, to our Use therefore any-ways to be
rendered, paid, or made.

And we do hereby for us, our Heirs and Successors, Will grant
covenant, grant, and agree, to and with the said Company any further
and their Successors, That we, our Heirs and Successors, lawful Powers
shall and will from time to time and at all Times hereafter, and Privileges
upon Request
upon the humble Suit and Request of the said Company and
their Successors, give and grant unto them all such further
and other Powers, Privileges, Authorities, Matters, and
Things, which we or they can or may lawfully grant, and as
shall be reasonably advised and devised by the Council learned
of the same Company and their Successors for the Time being,
and shall be approved by our Attorney or Solicitor General
on our Behalf. In Witness whereof, We have caused these
our Letters to be made Patent. Witness *Thomas* Archbishop
of *Canterbury* and the rest of the Keepers and Justices of
the Kingdom, at *Westminster*, the 5th Day of *September*, in
the 10th Year of our Reign.

of the Bill Committee as well as our County of Record as
any other outstanding or unrecorded bills.
The bill committee or its action in their business

And our Will and Pleasure is, That as the said Prisoner, under the Great Seal of England, shall be in our Prisoner, and shall be kept, until he or she, first and last, to us in our Privy Council, shall be presented, and shall be always to be received, paid, or made.

[illegible]

